

library
1052



STAFF PHOTO/MATTHEW NADLER

Library Director Carol Jankowski

Leading the library

New director looks to the future

By Matthew Nadler
MNADLER@CNC.COM

DUXBURY - To Carol Jankowski, a library isn't simply a repository of books; it's a community destination, a meeting space and "a cornerstone of American democracy."

She's now in a position to make the Duxbury Free Library all of those things, having just taken the reins as its new director.

She's a familiar face at the library, having started working for Duxbury, while studying for her Master's in Library Science, as the circulation supervisor in 1997 at the Drew Library.

Calling being a librarian "the best job I ever had," she said she planned to be the "number one advocate for the library."

Jankowski started her bookish career at the John Curtis Library in Hanover, where, by the time she left, she was the only full-time employee,

She's confident that ink on paper will continue to be a popular choice, telling how her father once observed that, once, people assumed television would finish off radio, but now both mediums coexist comfortably.

besides the director. Working there, the self-described "life long reader" said, inspired her to pursue library work as a career.

Prior to that, she worked as a part-time social worker in Braintree.

The new director will have a chance to put her mark on the library soon enough, as she starts working

with a committee charged with developing a five-year strategic plan.

Changes in how people get, and read, books are one thing on her mind. Jankowski says she's "scanning the horizons of emerging tech" to figure out what role a library will play in the future.

She noted the Old Colony Library Network already offers e-books, and e-readers can be checked out by patrons of the Duxbury Free Library for a 2-hour in-library test drive.

"The wider availability of books in all forms is a good thing," she said.

But she's confident that ink on paper will continue to be a popular choice, telling how her father once observed that, once, people assumed television would finish off radio, but now both mediums coexist comfortably.

Prior to being director she was circulation director and event coordina-

SEE DIRECTOR, PAGE 3

Jankowski takes charge of library

FROM DIRECTOR, PAGE 1

tor for the library, and she plans to continue in the latter role. "The library is a community destination, particularly in this community," where 10,000 people have library cards. She noted the number of both formal and informal groups that meet there, including her own book group

that she's led for the past 10 years. She plans on continuing with the group. Presently, they're getting started on "A Lost Lady" by Willa Cather.

As for her own reading list, Jankowski says she prefers fiction, but has recently read a trio of memoirs, "Let's Take the Long Way Home" by former Boston Globe book critic Gail Caldwell,

"Just Kids" by punk rock pioneer Patti Smith and "The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating," by Elisabeth Bailey. The last book, about the author's observations of a snail that has entered her bedroom while she's laid up with a debilitating illness, is, Jankowski says, "wonderful, a sweet little book"

Of course, being in charge of the library isn't all book clubs

and memoirs. She also has to present the library's budget, but she's confident that she has the backing of town managers in her efforts.

She notes that no department in town is "getting ideal funding" but she adds the community and town officials support the library.

With 10,000 library cards in town, that's not surprising.